

"Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people"  
—Dr. H. H. Fordick

# The Northfield Press

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE.

"Truth, justice, and the welfare of man depend on individuals with the courage and opportunity to express their opinions."  
—Lancelot Whyte

NO. 4921

NORTHFIELD, MASS., FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1949

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## Ceremonies for Case Farm Too Pioneer

The eyes of Agriculture leaders and farmers across the nation will be focused on this historical New York Village on Tuesday, May 31. On that day history pays a return visit to Oswego County, as a marker is dedicated to the memory of Jerome I. Case, pioneer manufacturer of power farm machinery, who was born on a wheat farm near Williamstown in 1819.

Son of a family intimately associated with New York history from early Colonial days, Case spent the first 22 years of his life in this area which was once the heart of American wheat belt. It was here that he first worked out plans for a mechanical reaper. It was here that he laid the groundwork for his later status as the world's largest manufacturer of threshers and agricultural steam engines.

Though Case left Williamstown in 1842, following west as it moved into the territory of Wisconsin, the roots of the Case family remained deep in New York. And the success he won in later life as a leader in the struggle to ease the farmer's burden reflected steady credit on the state which gave him birth. Today, the J. I. Case Co., which he founded 107 years ago, has a payroll of 12,000 in eight plants across the country, and Case products are in service on farms in a hundred countries of the world.

## Evening Auxiliary Holds Election

23 members and guests of the Evening Auxiliary of the Congregational Church met at the church vestry at 6:30 p. m. Friday evening for a desert party. The annual meeting and election of officers followed in the ladies parlor. Miss Gloria Savcheff entertained with piano solos. Annual reports were submitted and considerable missionary work reported.

Officers elected were: President, Miss Helen Handy; 1st vice-president, Miss Sophie Servaes; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Grove Deming; Secretary, Miss Mabel Shields; Treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Bralley; Work Committee, Mrs. Ralph Sargent and Miss Margaret Shields; Social Committee, Mrs. Roy A. Barlow and Miss Elizabeth Bralley.

An instructive quiz on missionary projects ended the evening.

## Town Topics

Miss Lucy Jackson of Madison, N. J. has arrived to spend the summer at her cottage on the Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar E. Coburn who have been at their residence in Orlando, Fla., during the winter, have arrived at their summer home in Mountain Park.

Reports received by the Clerk of the Rustic Ridge Association indicate that this week end will witness many cottages open during the long holiday vacation of Memorial Day, with at least 38 cottages open.

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## Historical Society To Hold June Meeting

The Northfield Historical Society will soon commence its warm weather activities. The first will be its June quarterly meeting at the Museum when the 225th anniversary of Fort Dummer which was on the Vernon edge of Brattleboro will be recognized. Miss Margaret Shields will report on the field day held at the site of the fort in 1896 by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Society under the auspices of the Brattleboro D. A. R. Between one and two thousand people attended. This old Deerfield Society held field meetings all over Franklin County and published its papers. Using ideas from those of 1870-98, the second Historical Society event probably in June will be a picnic tour to sites of interest within some ten or fifteen miles, especially those monuments where the P. V. M. A. held field meetings. There is much valuable material available. A little later the Museum will have its usual summer openings to the public. Several new members have joined the Society this year.

June 7th is the quarterly meeting.

## Legion Auxiliary Has Plastic Party

The regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary was held on Thursday in the Legion rooms with a short business meeting at 7:30, followed by a Plastic Party given by Mr. Earl Warriner of Williamsburg, Mass.

There were 34 attending. Refreshments were served by Mrs. George Holton, Mrs. Stanley Payson, Mrs. Carroll Miller and Mrs. Niles Stone. Door prizes were won by Mrs. Georgia Holton, Mrs. Katherine Griswold and Mrs. Lura Stone. Puppies are being sold by members. It was announced the Special service in Rindge, N. H. Cathedral in Pines will be at 3 p. m., May 29. A number of members and their families are planning to attend. The next regular meeting will be June 16.

## Champion 'Rusty' Has Two Female Pups

"Rusty Rasko", the two and a half year old St. Bernard owned by Joe Brown of Birnam road, was awarded the Best of Opposite Sex prize twice.

"Champion King Liddle", of Pittston, Pa., is father to Rusty as well as the two new pups, "Rasko Von Rippish", great grandfather to the pups, is an international champion. Eight days following his being crowned European champion, "Rasko Von Rippish" was named champion of this country as well.

## Town Topics

Miss Mildred A. Orr has returned to town and is opening up her home for the summer.



EDWARD M. POWELL, Jr.  
Commander

## MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY, MAY 30, 1949



DR. JOHN W. BENNETT  
Commander

### PROGRAM

10:00 A.M. PARADE STARTS FROM EAST NORTHFIELD, AT PINE ST.  
CEREMONY AT MILL BROOK IN MEMORY OF NAVY VETERANS  
CEREMONIES AT ALEXANDER HALL  
CEREMONIES AT CENTER CEMETERY  
PRINCIPAL SPEAKER, ATTY. SAMUEL BLASSBERG.  
DECORATION OF GRAVES  
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS  
CHAPLAIN - THE REV. LESTER WHITE  
CEREMONIES - Laying of wreath at HONOR ROLL, TOWN HALL.

IN CASE OF RAIN CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD IN TOWN HALL

Order of March  
ROBERT F. HUBER - Marshal  
TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL BAND - 80 Pieces  
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THE AUXILIARIES  
THE GIRL SCOUTS  
THE BOY SCOUTS  
4-H CLUB  
THE RED MEN  
THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

Main St. will be closed to traffic during the parade. Cars may be driven to the Mill Brook for services there.

## "SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER"

The Northfield School for Girls and Mt. Hermon Players will present the first performance of "She Stoops to Conquer" by Oliver Goldsmith in Silverthorn Hall, Saturday evening, May 28 at 8:15 o'clock. Tickets are on sale at the Northfield Pharmacy.

## THE OVERSEAS



"Forgive Me..."

Camiers, France  
May 13, 1949

Dear Sir and Madame:

You will forgive me for asking this, but I hope you will help us by finding some one among your circle of friends who will be kind enough to help us. Here is our situation: we lost everything; I had a daughter, 13 years old, killed February 5, 1944 by bombing; that same day my husband and mother were wounded and my grandmother killed; also, July 20, 1940, a brother disappeared on board the Mackness; November 6, 1943, a second brother killed by shellfire; January 6, 1944 a sister was killed. My father died as a result of wounds from 1914-18. Besides that, my husband has not been working for a year; he was wounded at work, after his bombing wounds were healed; and I have still 3 children, Adelia Pruvost 15 years, Marie Claire 6 years and Adrien 3 years.

I hope Mr. and Mrs. Hantunen, that makes us seem worthy, having heard from others who have received parcels, of sending you our own address, since you have asked the mayor of Camiers for the names of worthy needy. I believe you will not be sorry for my request; you can ask the mayor for information about us. Hoping to hear from you, my husband and my little family joins in thanking you. Here is my address: Madame Adrienne Pruvost, Camiers, Pas de Calais, France. Again Thanks.

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## AS I SEE IT

Those of you who read THIS WEEK, the syndicated magazine section to be found in the Boston Sunday Herald and the Sunday New York Herald Tribune, probably have been stimulated in your thinking, as have I, by the short articles that always appear on Page 2 under the caption of "Words to Live By". Last Sunday's article was written by Newton B. Drury, the Director of the National Park Service. His words are appropriate as this week marks the nation's celebration of the first annual Park and Recreation Week.

Mr. Drury has the following words of Thomas Jefferson hanging in his office, for to him, they are truly expressive of the spirit of the way in which we Americans get things accomplished — "We must be contented to secure what we can from time to time and eternally press forward to what is yet to get".

Mr. Drury, in writing about the above words of Jefferson, states that "by patience and determination, rather than by a harsh upsting of tradition, we move toward our national aspirations. This spirit was always in the heart of Jefferson. The essence of his creed was that free men, with faith and persistence, can press forward and through the democratic methods in which he believed so devoutly, attain seemingly unattainable goals." He then explains about the steps involved and the measures that were taken by a group of people in order that the world's first national park was established. Those people who stumbled upon the beauty and grandeur of the Yellowstone Country, caught a vision. That country was too wonderful to become the property of a few. Thus, through united effort that small group of men gave the nation a new concept; a park, to be the property of all Americans for all time. That was in the year of 1872.

Gradually over the years, other men have been fired by the same desire. Piece by piece, continually pressing forward, the dream has grown. Now we have twenty-six great national parks, besides hundreds of national monuments, forests and preserves. "This is the way we get things done in America. One man tells another, does what he can, till the sum of these efforts grows into a national aspiration — a precious goal. Then occurs our miracle of democracy: because the ground-work has been surely laid, the goal is already within our grasp." Those of you who have stood on the brink of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or Arizona's Grand Canyon, or have drunk in the grandeur and beauty of the Yosemite Valley can feel the full import of our national park program. The job of providing recreational facilities for our community is a very small part of the overall picture, by no means less important in the light of our own needs. We here in Northfield, in contemplating the possibilities of a swimming pool and recreation area, would do well to catch the spirit of such a challenging project.

Mott Guhae

## Northfield Man Wins High ROTC Honor

Cadet 2nd Lt. Joan R. Addison, a student at the U. of Massachusetts, son of Mrs. Mildred Addison of Northfield and now employed by the American Youth Hostel in New York City, won the Air Force Medal which is awarded annually to the highest ranking air force ROTC cadet in the first year advanced military course. Lt. Col. Francis W. Nye, senior Air Force Officer at the University of Massachusetts, made the presentation.

## Vernon Green Inn A Vermont Resort

From the skyscrapers of New York to the green hills of Vermont! That's the story behind the white walls of the striking structure on Route 30, in Vernon, Vt., just this side of Bushnell's Museum. Distinctive road-signs call your attention to the "Vernon Green Inn".

The "Vernon Green" is headed by the Misses Virginia Varum and Dorothy G. Olsson, who resigned from excellent positions with the Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., in New York City.

The Vernon Green was originally built as a private home by Mrs. R. H. Tower in 1938. It is situated some distance from Route 30, and stands high above the broad Connecticut. It's so-called original modern styling makes it a conspicuous landmark among centuries-old New England homes. However, the interior is a lesson in developing a pleasing combination of old New England and new "original modern". Guests facilities include 9 single and double rooms all providing sweeping views of the valley. All rooms have many windows providing bright cheery and airy rooms. A large game room is provided in the basement, with facilities for games of all kinds. A music room, lined with hand-made bricks taken from the home of Mrs. Tower's grandfather, provides the seclusion and comfort necessary for the enjoyment of good music and the serenity of country living. A paneled library, with casement windows, offers odd corners for a quiet game of chess, a letter home or a good book.

The Inn, although all heated, offers a spacious living room with all the comforts for an evening by the fireplace listening to the chirping of crickets and crackling logs. A large and up-to-date kitchen assures fine, varied meals.

Miss Varum, a graduate of Sargent School of Physical Education, with a degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a teacher of Physical Education in Butler, Pa., for a number of years, is business manager of the Inn. Miss Varum, a native of Pennsylvania, was employed as Safety Engineer with Liberty Mutual in New York City during the war.

Miss Olsson, a graduate nurse, was instructor of nursing at the Kaulkner Hospital in Jamaica Plain before joining the Liberty Mutual company in Boston, where she was employed as a nurse counselor. She was later sent to the New York office of this company and set up a similar department. Miss Olsson, who has charge of the food and meals at the Inn, is a graduate of the New York Institute of Dietetics.

Despite their formal duties and assignments both young ladies find it necessary to double up when faced with the endless series of tasks before them, in the operation of the Inn — including mowing the lawn. They don't, of course, mow the entire five acres, but they do mow enough to furnish a large area for badminton, archery and other outdoor games.

"Toots", a large friendly dog of undetermined breeding, guards the home pile and romps about the grounds of the Vernon Green in Vernon, Vt.

## Local Bird Walkers Check 70 Varieties

Eight people went on the annual Audubon Society bird walk on May 21 in Northfield.

This bird walk, a part of the state-wide census by the Mass. Audubon Society, took the bird watchers along the Birch trail on The Northfield grounds. More than fifty varieties were observed on this trail, with a total of 70 varieties being observed during the two walks in the morning and afternoon.

No unusual birds were sighted during the walk, although some of the usual inhabitants, such as the Magnolia Warbler, Canada Warbler, Alder Flycatcher and Solitary Sandpiper, were not seen in their usual haunts.

Leading the walk was Miss Sophie Servaes, accompanied by Miss Amy Hamilton, Miss Mabel Shields, Mrs. Lavina Sanderson, Miss Margaret Chapin, Master Andrew Sheldon, Miss Elizabeth Wroblewski and Miss Ordway.

## The Sportsmen's Club

I would like to announce Douglas Pearsall's Club. It is called the Sportsmen's Club. We have a baseball team. We have played two games, we won both games by a good margin. We would like to know who would like to join in East Northfield. Any boy can join from the age of six to thirteen. Douglas Pearsall is the President and Garry Casey is the Vice-president. Norman Dean, treasurer and Paul Jordan, Jr., Secretary. We have meeting on Friday. The club is expected to obey the following rules:

1. Swearing. 05
2. Be polite to elders.
3. Be kind to wild life.
4. Play down once a week.
5. Be a good sport.
6. Be true worthy.
7. If not there with out a good reason — 10 cents
8. Don't be silly at meetings.
9. Be at meetings if possible.
10. Please get in touch with Garry or Douglas if you want to join.



**The Northfield Press**  
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### "Three Words"

Some allusions have been made concerning taxpayers, and non-taxpayers, and a division has been made, by some, of these two groups over the contemplated swimming pool-recreation area project.

These allusions are unfair to all concerned taxpayers, the so-called non-taxpayers, and, most of all, to the future of this community.

A bonafide, registered voter of this community has one vote — no more, no less — there is no legal method yet devised whereby the effectiveness or legitimacy of a vote can be altered.

This writer is of the opinion that the swimming pool project is intended for the primary BENEFIT of the TAXPAYER, and that it is not intended as an additional tax burden on his sagging shoulders. It is not necessary to make it a burden for the taxpayer or the community, if serious thought is applied to the project. As has been stated here a number of times Northfield is the northern gateway to the Pioneer Valley — the valley that did \$25,000,000 worth of business in 1948. Northfield shares in that income — there is no plausible reason why it cannot increase its share. But in order to increase that share it MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! Additional tourist revenue will ease the taxpayer's burden. A well developed swimming pool and recreation area is a definite part of any community plan for the future.

A community, in order to attract new residents, as well as hold on to the one's it has, must offer tangible, positive reasons for staying in, or coming to Northfield. A swimming pool and recreation area would be an excellent reason for coming to Northfield. The necessity for a stable population, if not an increasing population is very evident if the proposed Regional Consolidated school is to become a reality. The school must maintain a certain level of pupils in order to assure maximum effectiveness. In order to maintain this level of pupils we must make this community attractive for children and for parents that want to bring up children here in this town.

New methods must be devised to add the taxpayer in carrying the load. These methods must be devised and carried out locally. It should be obvious that unless new sources of income are tapped, the only recourse in lowering the tax rate, will be cutting town services, such as road maintenance, support of the old and dependent, cutting of brush, extension of sidewalks, purchase of equipment, etc., OR — continue to take it out of the pocket of the present taxpayer, and other heavily contributing residents of this community.

New taxpayers must be brought in to supplement the older taxpayers.

The community must become more self-reliant and do business locally. That is — patronize your local merchants.

We must look to our own community for services in so far as is possible and not seek the facilities offered by outside towns.

Whatever we do — we should do for the children that will live in this community. We should prepare them, so that they will become contributing citizens of the town.

As for the financing of the pool and recreation area — construction and operation — the "Outsider" in "The Squeeze Box" has a practical suggestion. The other suggestions, equally as practical if we sit down and think about it.

The Town of Northfield subscribed on a plaque now attached to a wall of the town hall in memory of D. L. Moody — Northfield's most famous son.

The tribute, as great as it is, could be even greater if we took the three words that describe the great evangelist and use them as our guiding tenets in these times.

The three words — FAITH — VISION.

### THE "SQUEEZE" BOX

(Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. All letters must be signed by the writer — the name will not be used if you so desire.)

#### "Outside Help"

Barre, Massachusetts  
May 19, 1949

TO THE EDITOR:  
Northfield Press  
Northfield, Massachusetts

I have a few suggestions concerning the proposed Swimming Pool and Recreation Area.

I have been led to believe from reading the columns of Mr. Guhee and Mr. Briesmaster along with your editorials that the people of Northfield are not too enthusiastic about spending such a large amount of money as would be necessary for the proposed War Memorial Swimming Pool and Recreation Area. I believe that such a project could be made to pay for itself in a few short years time. I do not believe in charging the children for the use of the pool but for the picnic grounds there could be a slight charge of about 25 cents for the use of fireplaces which could be used to offset maintenance costs.

As for making the project pay for itself, why couldn't a concession stand be built and maintained by a person during the summer season on a regular pay schedule and if necessary to have extra help perhaps the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts would volunteer to help out during rush periods. The profit derived from the concession stand could be used toward the cost of the project. As for a person to manage the stand, perhaps a teacher who is not working during the summer would like to take over the management of the stand.

Another idea is to have each one of the member organizations of the CPC to have one project, the proceeds to go towards the cost of the proposed War Memorial Swimming Pool and Recreation Area. Such projects could be: food sales, card parties, dances, minstrel show, suppers, rummage sales, newspaper drives, auctions, etc. I am quite sure the children or young people of the town would be willing to put much time and effort into a minstrel show or play if they had a person or persons to lead them.

There are many ways of earning money for this project to cut down the burden on the tax rate. Are there any other suggestions?

Sincerely,  
The Outsider

#### "In Appreciation"

Editor of the Northfield Press  
Northfield, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:  
I would like to express my appreciation to all the people who have been so helpful to my work on the proposed swimming pool and skating rink for the town of Northfield.

It will be remembered that no funds were appropriated for this work and these people gave generously of their time and knowledge and have also offered to contribute any help they can in the future toward a better community.

May I extend my gratitude for their cooperation to my committee: Ted Powell, Charles Repa, Fred Bolton, Virginia Leach, Albert Rice and Dick Field. Also — Jack McNeil, Construction Engineer, who devoted a great deal of time and effort to this project. Arthur Donnellan, owner of Jewette Pond; Peter Mackin, Mackin Sand and Concrete Products; Mott Guhee chairman of the Recreation committee; George Billings, American Red Cross; C. B. Raymond, District Highway Engineer; Gladys and Stanley Bistrek, and many others.

Sincerely yours,  
Helen Benney

#### "The Leadership"

May 23, 1949

The Northfield Press,  
Northfield, Mass.

To the Editor:  
Regardless of the merits of the particular swimming pool and recreation area proposed for Northfield, I should like to express my satisfaction with the plan by H. A. B. and M. P. G., which appeared in your issue of May 20th. Their thoughtful and courageous expressions against indifference and inertia should give heart to all

forward-looking citizens.

I hope there is significance in the fact that both these young men are war veterans, for it is up to them the veterans, that we must look for leadership in the constructive forces of the community. They are the men who by their wartime experiences would be most aware of responsibility for the continuing welfare of the town; and their is the leadership we have the right to expect.

R. S.

### VIVID RECOLLECTION

by Phil Porter

The clock on the hill across the river struck eleven as I reached the school house at the foot of the mountain road.

I had no sooner reached a point on the mountainside which overlooked the river when I heard a muffled sound like thunder roll up the distant mountains. It seemed to reach the Whitcomb summit then roll back again. Seconds later a discharge of electricity pierced to the bottom of a huge black cloud and lighted up the countryside. The blast which followed didn't cease its rumbling until it reached the river below.

Drops of rain as large as jelly beans struck me on the head and splattered me on neck and shoulders. Dried leaves became restless, fluttered for a moment, then all rose like a swarm of bees and scurried up the road to hide from the approaching storm. Again a flash, and again a blast directly overhead. This time the cloud split wide open and poured its contents over me.

One moment I was hot and perspiring, then I was drenched and shivering from the cold. With it was only a matter of minutes in which the storm had come and gone again. The waning moon pushed its way through the clouds, then all was quiet. How deathly quiet it was as I looked over the old cemetery wall and saw a hundred or more silent sentries standing at attention as guardians over departed spirits which patiently awaited the dawn of a new day. Not even the sound of a cricket could be heard anywhere.

But this was not my objective. I must veer to the left up a sharp incline and into the wilderness. Nine minutes of walking distance I must look for an old dead pine tree when

I came to a turn in the road. There it was just ahead of me.

There were still two minutes before midnight so I lay flat on my stomach and peeked through the low branches of the trees; but my heart thumped so fast and loud I was afraid the old man would hear it, so I stood up, leaned forward, and parted the branches for a clearer view. It was a front seat vista and I was congratulating myself on the way I had managed to approach so close without being detected.

Presently my ears picked up a peculiar sound coming from the northeast and over my left shoulder I looked in that direction and there the ghost was approaching. It looked to me as though he was returning from a stroll in the moonlight. He was exactly of the same description as I had been informed, except his long beard was a little more shaggy and had turned to a mustard color. His blue smock was shabby and considerably rumpled; and, in the moonlight he certainly looked very much taller than I had supposed.

But what struck me was the way he shuffled along. His gait reminded me of an old man in a puppet show, and he certainly conducted himself like one.

His arms and legs appeared to move mechanically, and the closer he came there was a clack-clack-clack-clack. This was so methodical I could think of nothing but a metronome on a piano.

During the intense moments of watching him I was still gripping the branches of the old pine, and for some reason or other one of them snapped from the pressure I was placing on it.

Then he spotted me.

(To Be Continued.)

### BREEZE

by HAROLD A. BRIESMASTER

Natives

The first inhabitants of Northfield, the tribe of Indians called the Squakeags, were the original natives of this area.

Living peacefully on the bluffs along the Connecticut River, the Squakeags speared salmon and otherwise occupied themselves until disturbed by the appearance of the white man.

The Indians were disposed of in one way or another by agreements, force, or threat of force — and the permanent white settlers took over, and started developing the community which is now Northfield.

Descendants of these colonists worked and builded for over two centuries and their accomplishments command the respect of the present townspeople.

New people, "come to town", soon fall under the spell of Northfield's past history, and realize they owe much to their predecessors. They have the urge to carry on, along with the native townspeople, in the same spirit that sparked the pioneers.

Everyone in town is an "outsider" for Northfield belongs to the Indians. Paradoxically, everybody living here should be equally considered as townspeople, whether related to the early settlers, or folks from Poughkeepsie or Portland.

I hear that in Los Angeles a resident is considered a "native" if he resides there only six months. Northfield has not yet set any permanent residential requirements, although this writer, after having lived here eighteen years and fifteen summers before that, is still considered in the "year-around summer person" class. My ambition is to be mistaken for a native, and have a visitor to town ask me, "Have you lived here all your life?" To which I have the perfect answer: "Not yet!"

Today, natives should warmly welcome newcomers to their midst. At the present time there is a critical need for leadership material. For instance, there is the immediate problem of finding a town Boy Scout Committee Chairman, a PTA President, and a Scoutmaster, as well as other posts now and in the future. Where will these leaders be found? From the "outsider", is one source. Don't scare them away, folks, nor let them have to fight their way into your hearts.

forward-looking citizens.

I hope there is significance in the fact that both these young men are war veterans, for it is up to them the veterans, that we must look for leadership in the constructive forces of the community. They are the men who by their wartime experiences would be most aware of responsibility for the continuing welfare of the town; and their is the leadership we have the right to expect.

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A—VA contact representatives are authorized by law to aid claimants in the preparation and presentation of claims. Your contact representative will assist you in preparing an affidavit giving complete history of your sickness or injury.

Q—I am a World War II veteran and would like to know if a medical examination is necessary before my claim, filed at discharge can be rated?

A—It is not necessary if the service records give sufficient information in your claim filed at discharge, or if a claim is filed within six months after discharge.

Q—Is there a time limit in which I, a World War I veteran, may file a claim for compensation for disability caused by my war service?

A—There is no time limit set for filing claim for compensation. However, if a claim for disability compensation is not filed within one year from date of release from active service, compensation may not be awarded for any period prior to the date of the claim.

Q—What is meant by presumptive service-connection?

A—There is a provision in the law to presume service-connection for specified disabilities that become manifest within stated periods of time following separation from active service.

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Mrs. Helen Parker Stearns is the first grade teacher appointed to take the place of Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson who moved away in November. Mrs. Stearns was born in Northfield, attended the local schools, and graduated from North-

field Seminary, now known as the Northfield School for Girls, and is a graduate of the Fitchburg State Normal School.

For three years Mrs. Stearns taught at District 3 School in Northfield and was for two years the principal of Center School, teaching grades six and seven. She was married to Galen G.

Stearns who died in January, 1938. Her two children, Dwight and Lois, reside with her in Northfield. Dwight is a mechanic and Lois is at present a student at Northampton Commercial College.

Mrs. Stearns is well known in Northfield through her work in the various town organizations. At present she is Worthy Matron of the Northfield Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, an appointed Officer of the Galilean Shrine, White Shrine of Jerusalem, and, in addition, holds the position of Treasurer in the Northfield Fish and Game Association.



by Gertrude C. Whitney

One cannot help remarking how far advanced the season is this year—a good two weeks, I should say, with lilacs in bloom this second week in May, when we ordinarily count on them to help out for Memorial Day. The several warm spells and early rains have combined to give nature an early start. Oh, how we need it, with the world still to feed! Other nations should try their best to raise their own food stuffs. Sending seeds to Europe is a friendly gesture.

Never were the apple trees more full of bloom. All the farmers are prayerfully hoping that there will be no killing frosts this month.

Our rock garden, here on Birnam road, covers a natural ledge with rock steps leading to the bottom. It was originally planned and tended by the late Rev. William A. White but, in the course of years, was allowed to run out. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew R. Gray, with infinite patience have reclaimed it from an overgrown mass of rose trailers and persistent bamboo, shoots into an orderly beauty spot which people often stop to admire. Just now the phlox subulata (moss pink) is strikingly beautiful with its gay blankets of many colors spread over tiers of flat gray rock. Being in an exposed place, I'm wondering if even the airplane passengers flying overhead to Keene do not notice these bright patches of color.

I was surprised to find my secret patch of Clintonia (named for De Witt Clinton) already in bloom in the nearby woods. The flowers are rather inconspicuous, being greenish yellow, but the broad glossy leaves are handsome. Later two or three shiny blue berries will form at the tip of the flower stalk.

The wood betony has apparently been blooming for a week or so. You should know this dainty flower with its fern-like leaves. It comes in two colors, lemon-yellow and a sort of chocolate pink. Referring to my Gray's manual, I find that it belongs to the Figwort family (Scrophulariaceae, if you can pronounce it) which includes the showy snapdragons and the dainty Veronicas, the wild painted-cup, as well as the more common "butter-and-eggs" turtle-head and mullein. However, the last-named should not be displaced, for I once met an artist who specialized in Mullein stalks on rocky mountainsides up in Vermont and he got good prices for them too.

We are trying some of the wood Intire, Janice Randall, David Scott, Paul Jordan and Ronald Zabko have their second reading certificate.

### CENTER SCHOOL NEWS

The first grade in Mrs. Bolton's room received their fifth gold seal last week in penmanship.

We are happy to have a little new boy in our room. Douglas Walsh has moved to the farms with his family.

The second grade in Mrs. Haack's room has received a complete set of new maple desks and everyone is extremely happy.

Monitors are: Lunchroom, Martha Janes and Curtis Shline; Closets, Gloria Clough and Betty Ware; Library Tables, Patrick Archambo.

Monitors in Mrs. Stebbins' room this week are: Paper, Jonathan Smith and Edward Doolittle; desks, Peter Scanlon and Rachel Brown; Library, Carol Merrifield and Marion Jewett; Lunch Room, Chester Kugler and Betty Williams; Closets, Kathryn Dudenoff and Terry Aldrich; Books, David Barnes and Leslie Barnard; Plants, Bette Mann; Health Inspector, Colleen Barber.

Grade 3 had perfect attendance all last week.

The girls in grade four had perfect attendance all last week.

Richard Williams is at Franklin County Hospital for the removal of tonsils and adenoids.

In a monthly spelling test the following had perfect papers: Miner Carpenter, Marie Clark, Geraldine Durant, Delores Fisher, John Mankowsky, Betty McIntire, Douglas Pearsall, Janice Randall, David Scott and Richard Williams.

Donald Hiller and David Scott of Grade VI had 100% in a recent test on the history of England and Mary Ellen Barnes, Norman Dean, Geraldine Durant, and Charles Janes had 90% or more.

Charlene Chamberlin, Irene Doolittle, Geraldine Durant, Betty Mc-

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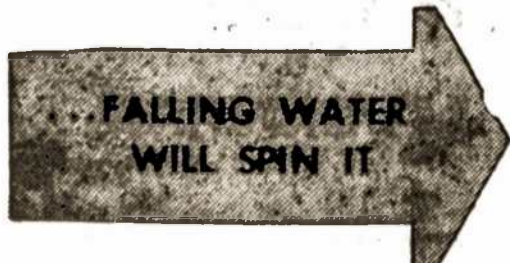
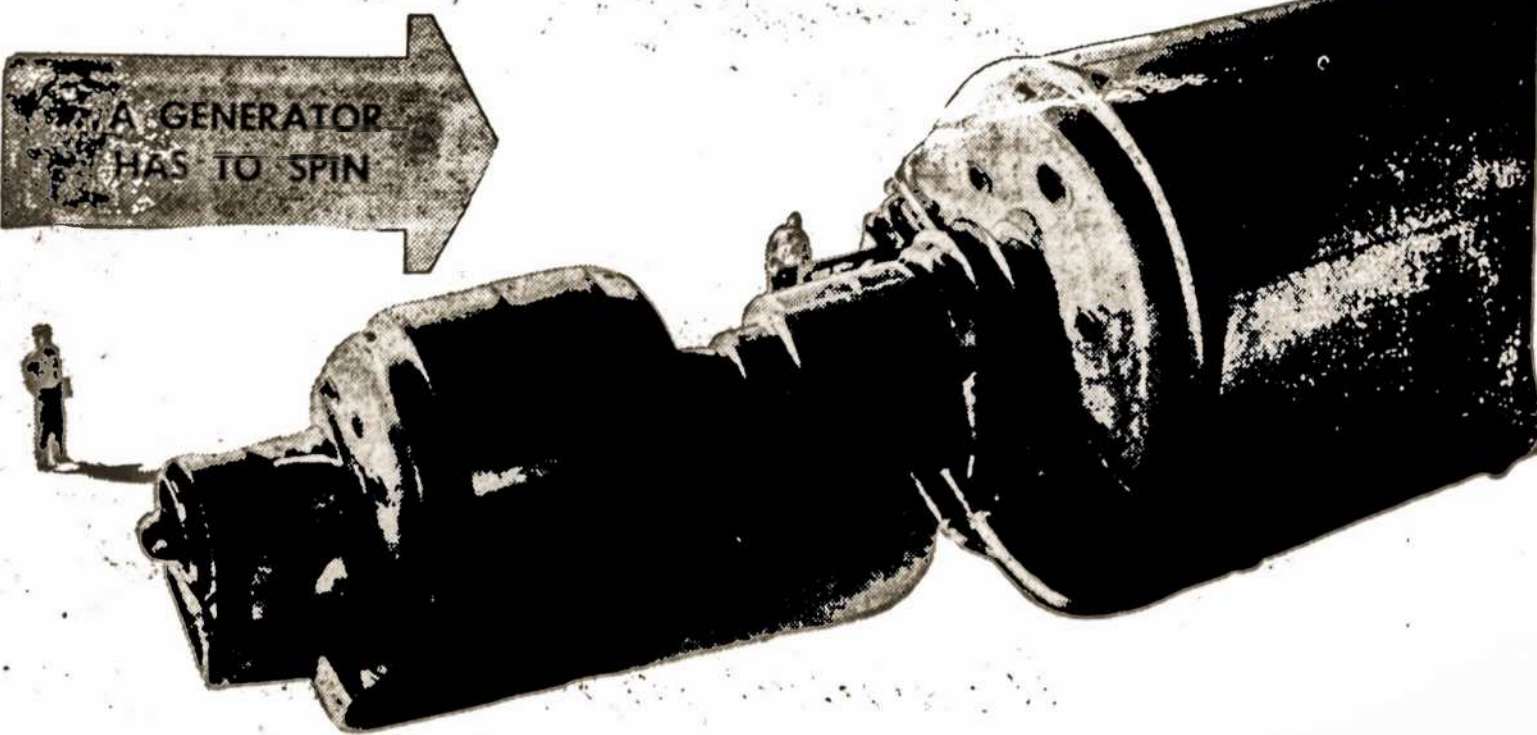
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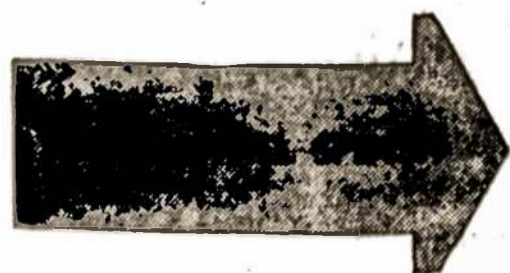
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### SOUTH VERNON

Memorial Day exercises in South Vernon will be held in the Advent Christian Church on Monday evening at 7:30 p. m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Edgar P. Walker of Worcester, who also has a home in South Vernon. A supper for all veterans and wives of South Vernon and Vernon will be served at the church at 6:30 p. m.

The Rev. E. E. Jones is still ill at the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

Miss Nellie Adams is staying with Mrs. Alice Prouty.

The spread of anthrax in farm animals, is favored when there are heavy rains followed by dry periods and extreme heat, along with an abundance of flies.

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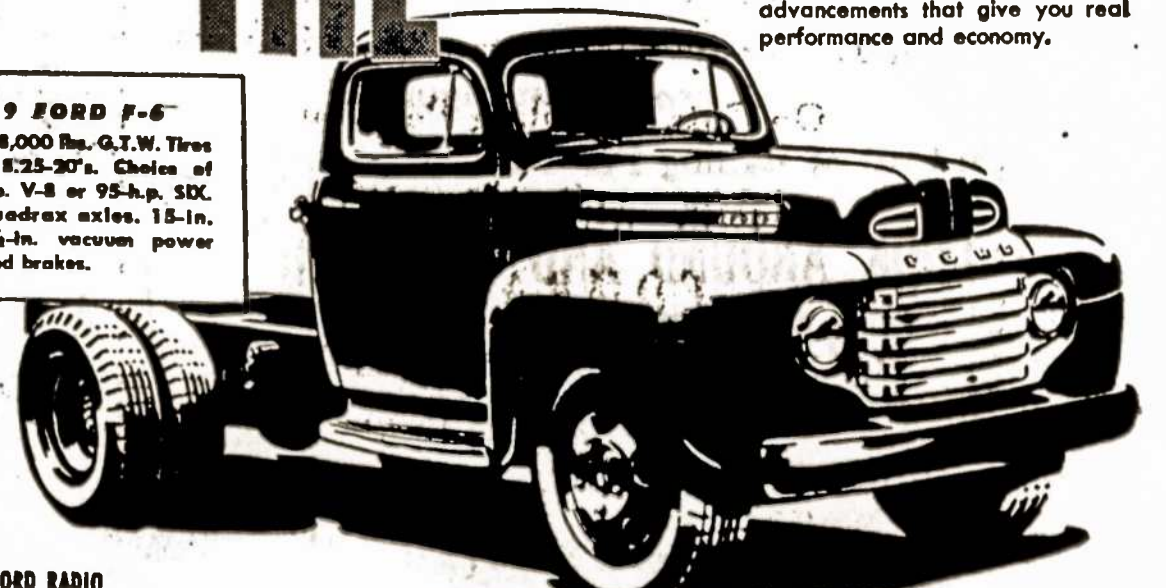
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